

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-51 (cancelled).

52. (new) A base deck for a data storage device of 3.5 inch form factor size having nominal outermost dimensions of about 146 millimeters (mm) in length and about 101.6 mm in width, the base deck comprising a base surface configured to support a single spindle motor configured to rotate at least one data storage disc at a nominal operational speed about a disc axis, a disc shroud surface which extends from the base surface substantially parallel with the disc axis and adjacent an outermost perimeter of the at least one data storage disc, and a lip surface which extends from the shroud surface to an outermost edge of the base deck, wherein the lip surface is configured to compressingly engage a gasket seal to form a sealed interior environment, and wherein the lip surface has a minimum extent of at least 7.6 millimeters along a line extending from the disc axis to the outermost edge of the base deck perpendicular to said length.

53. (new) The base deck of claim 52, wherein the base deck further comprises an exterior wall surface adjacent the shroud surface to form a wall of the base deck

therebetween, said exterior wall surface recessed with respect to the outermost edge of the base deck.

54. (new) The base deck of claim 53, further comprising a plurality of heat dissipation fins projecting from the exterior wall surface to a distal point nominally aligned with the outermost edge of the base deck.

55. (new) The base deck of claim 52 configured to accommodate the at least one data storage disc having an outermost diameter of about 84 millimeters.

56. (new) The base deck of claim 52 configured to accommodate the at least one storage disc having an outermost diameter of less than 84 millimeters.

57. (new) A data storage device which incorporates the base deck of claim 52, the data storage device further comprising a top cover affixed to the base deck and a gasket seal compressed between said lip surface and said top cover.

58. (new) A data storage device comprising:

a housing of 3.5 inch form factor size having nominal outermost dimensions of about 146 millimeters (mm) in length and about 101.6 mm in width, the housing comprising a base deck, a top cover and a gasket seal compressed between the base deck and top cover to form a sealed interior environment; and

a single spindle motor supported within said environment configured to rotate at least one data storage disc at a nominal operational speed about a disc axis;

the base deck further characterized as comprising a base surface which supports said spindle motor, a disc shroud surface which extends from the base surface substantially parallel with the disc axis at a substantially constant radius adjacent an outermost perimeter of the at least one data storage disc, and a lip surface which extends from the shroud surface to an outermost edge of the base deck, wherein the lip surface is configured to compressingly engage the gasket seal, and wherein the lip surface has a minimum extent of at least 7.6 millimeters along a line extending from the disc axis to the outermost edge of the base deck perpendicular to said length.

59. (new) The data storage device of claim 58, wherein the base deck further comprises an exterior wall surface adjacent the shroud surface to form a wall of the base deck therebetween, said exterior wall surface recessed with respect to the outermost edge of the base deck.

60. (new) The data storage device of claim 59, further comprising a plurality of heat dissipation fins projecting from the exterior wall surface to a distal point nominally aligned with the outermost edge of the base deck.

61. (new) The data storage device of claim 58, wherein the at least one data storage disc has an outermost diameter of about 84 millimeters.

62. (new) The data storage device of claim 58, wherein the lip surface continuously extends at least 90 degrees around the outermost perimeter of the at least one data storage disc.

63. (new) A data storage device comprising:

a housing comprising a base deck, a top cover and a gasket seal compressed between the base deck and top cover to form a sealed interior environment; and

a single spindle motor supported within said environment configured to rotate at least one data storage disc at a nominal operational speed about a disc axis;

the base deck further characterized as comprising a base surface which supports said spindle motor, a disc shroud surface which extends from the base surface substantially parallel with the disc axis at a substantially constant radius adjacent an outermost perimeter of the at least one data storage disc, and a lip surface which extends from the shroud surface to an outermost edge of the base deck, wherein the lip surface is configured to compressingly engage the gasket seal, and wherein the lip surface has a minimum extent of at least about 15% of a line extending from the disc

axis to the outermost edge of the base deck in a direction perpendicular to said outermost edge.

64. (new) The data storage device of claim 63, wherein the base deck further comprises an exterior wall surface adjacent the shroud surface to form a wall of the base deck therebetween, said exterior wall surface recessed with respect to the outermost edge of the base deck.

65. (new) The data storage device of claim 64, further comprising a plurality of heat dissipation fins projecting from the exterior wall surface to a distal point nominally aligned with the outermost edge of the base deck.

66. (new) The data storage device of claim 63, wherein the at least one data storage disc has an outermost diameter of about 84 millimeters.

67. (new) The data storage device of claim 63, wherein the at least one data storage disc has an outermost diameter of less than 84 millimeters.

68. (new) The data storage device of claim 63, wherein the housing is characterized as a 3.5 inch form factor having nominal outermost dimensions of about 146 millimeters (mm) in length and about 101.6 mm in width, and wherein the disc axis is nominally centered along said 101.6 mm width of said housing.

69. (new) The data storage device of claim 63, wherein the housing is characterized as a 2.5 inch form factor having nominal outermost dimensions of about 101.6 millimeters (mm) in length and about 73 mm in width, and wherein the disc axis is nominally centered along said 73 mm width of said housing.

70. (new) The data storage device of claim 63, wherein the housing is characterized as a 5.25 inch form factor having nominal outermost dimensions of about 203.2 millimeters (mm) in length and about 146 mm in width, and wherein the disc axis is nominally centered along said 146 mm width of said housing.

71. (new) The data storage device of claim 63, wherein the lip surface continuously extends at least 90 degrees around the outermost perimeter of the at least one data storage disc.